

Message Text

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PAGE 01 NEW DE 07723 311207Z
ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W
-----311208Z 003612 /46
O 311010Z MAY 77
FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3750
INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L NEW DELHI 7723

NODIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: TECH, PFOR, IN
SUBJECT: NON-PROLIFERATION: TARAPUR

REF: NEW DELHI 7675

1. IN REFERENCE TO YOUR PENDING MEETING WITH FOREIGN MINISTERR
VAJPAYEE IN PARIS, THE QUESTIONS OF TARAPUR AND NON-
PROLIFERATION WERE NOZSRAISED IN MY MEETING WITH HIM, WHICH
WAS BASICALLY A COURTESY CALL.

2. HOWEVER, HE WILL UNDOUBTEDLY KNOW OF MY SUBSEQUENT
MEETINGS WITH PRIME MINISTER DESAI AND FOREIGN SECRETARY
MEHTA (REPORTED TO YOU IN SEPARATE CABLES), AND YE IS
LIKELY TO RAISE WITH YOU QUESTIONS AS TO WHAT WE INTEND IN
THE NUCLEAR NEGOTIATION WE HAVE PROPOSED.

3. AS BACKGROUND YOU SHOULD KNOW THAT WHILE THE PRIME
MINISTER IS DEADSET AGAINST NUCLEAR EXPLOSIVES, FULLY
COMMITTED TO TRYIFG TO HELP PREVENT "NUCLEAR MISUSES", AND
EAGER TO HAVE HIS GOVERNMENT JOIN IN EXPLORING WITH US HOW
OUR POLICY DIFFERENCES IN THE NUCLEAR AREA CAN BE REDUCED,
AT THE SAME TIME ANY SUGGESTION OF INDIA SIGNING THE NPT
STILL RAISES HACKWES HERE. THE PRIME MINISTER EMPHASIZED TO
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ME THAT INDIA'S REFUSAL TO SIGN IT IS BASED ON PRINCIPLE
AND A SENSE OF NATIONAL INTEGRITY--WHICH IS TO SAY, INDIA
WILL NOT SIGN A TREATY THAT ACCORDS HER SECOND CLASS
CITIZENSHIP, WHEREIN SHE IS ASKED TO ACCEPT CONSTRAINTS
THAT THE BIG POWERS DO NOT THEMSELVES ACCEPT. "FULL SCOPE
SAFEGUARDS" ALSO REMAINS A VERY TOUCH ISSUE FOR THE SAME
REASON AND BECAUSE AN AIM OF INDIA FOR A LONG TIME HAS

BEEN TO BECOME AS SELF-RELIANT AS POSSIBLE IN TERMS OF NUCLEAR DEVELOPMENT. CONSIDERABLE PRIDE IS TAKEN IN THE EXTENT TO WHICH THE COUNTRY HAS BEEN ABLE TO DEVELOP HER OWN NUCLEAR CAPABILITIES, QUITE APART FROM THE TROUBLESOME 1974 PNE.

4. IN MY TALKS WITH THE PRIME MINISTER AND THE FOREIGN SECRETARY I HAVE EMPHASIZED OUR COMMON ULTIMATE OBJECTIVE-- IN DESAI'S WORDS, "A WORLD IMMUNIZED FROM NUCLEAR MISUSE". I HAVE ALSO SAID THAT WHAT WE SEEK IN THE PROPOSED NEGOTIATIONS IS A COLLABORATIVE EXPLORATION, IN GOOD FAITH, OF BOTH COMMON INTERESTS AND POINTS OF DIFFERENCE, WITH THE AIM (1) OF GAINING A BETTER MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING OF OUR RESPECTIVE APPROACHES; AND, WE WOULD HOPE, (2) OF THUS BUILDING NEW GROUND FOR EFFECTIVE COLLABORATION BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES WITH RESPECT TO THE CONTROL OF THE MORE DANGEROUS FORMS OF NUCLEAR ENERGY. I AM CONVINCED THAT THE LESS WE SEEM DIDACTIC, THE MORE LIKELY WE ARE TO HAVE THIS INDIAN GOVERNMENT MEET US HALFWAY.

5. FINALLY, NOW THAT THE IMMEDIATE ISSUE OF THIS TARAPUR RESUPPLY IS BEHIND US, WE HERE WOULD SUGGEST THAT YOU SHOULD URGE ON VAJPAYEE THE IMPORTANCE WE ATTACH TO GETTING ON WITH THE NEGOTIATIONS WHICH WE HAVE PROPOSED AND WHICH THE PRIME MINISTER HAS APPROVED SO WHOLEHEARTEDLY. SPECIFICALLY THE PM SHOULD BE ENCOURAGED TO DESIGNATE AN APPROPRIATE OFFICER (PREFERABLY FROM OUR STAND POINT FOREIGN SECRETARY JAGAT MEHTA) TO MEET WITH JOE NYE AT THE EARLIEST POSSIBLE TIME TO SET UP THE PROPOSED NEGOTIATIONS. I UNDERSTAND MEHTA
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WILL ATTEND YOUR MEETING WITH VAJPAYEE.
GOHEEN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION, CAT-A, NEGOTIATIONS, NUCLEAR SAFEGUARDS, NUCLEAR COOPERATION PROGRAMS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 31-May-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977NEWDE07723
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: N770003-0583
Format: TEL
From: NEW DELHI
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 2
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t1977053/aaaaabtx.tel
Line Count: 99
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: f2c6428c-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NODS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Reference: 77 NEW DELHI 7675
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 06-Apr-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2412515
Secure: LOCK1
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NON-PROLIFERATION: TARAPUR
TAGS: TECH, PFOR, PARM, IN, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/f2c6428c-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009